

**U.S. Codex Office**

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

AGENCY: U.S. Codex Office, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on April 19, 2022. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), which will convene virtually, May 9 - 13, 2022, with report adoption on May 24, 2022. The U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius and the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 15th Session of the CCCF and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2022, from 1:00 - 3:00PM EDT.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 15th Session of the CCCF will be accessible via the internet at the following address:

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=15>.

Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate to the 15th Session of the CCCF, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address:

lauren.robin@fda.hhs.gov. Emailed comments should state in the title that they relate to activities of the 15th Session of the CCCF.

Registration: Attendees must register to attend the public meeting here:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceGurDkvGLZO3ek3TyOwCO2Mytr_oQE

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For Information about the 15th Session of the CCCF, contact U.S. Delegate, Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, lauren.robin@fda.hhs.gov, +1 (240) 402-1639.

For Information about the public meeting, contact: U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250. Phone (202) 720-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157, Email: uscodex@usda.gov, or Quynh-Anh Nguyen, quynh-anh.nguyen@fda.hhs.gov, Phone (240) 402-2028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) are:

- (a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels or guidelines levels for contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (b) to prepare priority lists of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;
- (c) to consider methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (d) to consider and elaborate standards or codes of practice for related subjects; and
- (e) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed.

The CCCF is hosted by the Netherlands. The United States attends the CCCF as a member country of Codex.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items from the forthcoming Agenda for the 15th Session of the CCCF will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies
- Matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
- Matters of interest arising from other international organizations
- Maximum level for cadmium in cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis)

- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans
- Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories
- Maximum levels for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
- Sampling plans and performance criteria for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children
- Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan
- Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans
- Methylmercury in fish:
 - Maximum levels for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel
 - Sampling plan
 - Other risk management measures
- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products
- Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection
- Forward work-plan for CCCF:
 - Review of staple food-contaminant combinations for future work of CCCF
- JECFA evaluations:
 - Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA
 - Follow-up work to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations

Public Meeting

At the April 19, 2022, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written

comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin, U.S. Delegate for the 15th Session of the CCCF (see ADDRESSES). Emailed comments should state in the title that they relate to activities of the 15th Session of the CCCF.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, the U.S. Codex Office will announce this Federal Register publication on-line through the USDA web page located at: <https://www.usda.gov/codex>, a link that also offers an email subscription service providing access to information related to Codex. Customers can add or delete their subscription themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email.

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Fax: (202) 690-7442, Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington DC, on March 21, 2022.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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